

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of transferring data between a primary station and a plurality of secondary stations, each secondary station having a distinguishing identifier, the method comprising the steps of:

assigning the each secondary stations to at least one of a plurality of categories, wherein each station in a category has at least one common characteristic;

storing, in the primary station, the identifiers of the secondary stations which are in each category;

transmitting, by the primary station, transmitting beacon signals containing indications of those categories for which the primary station it has data to be transferred;

determining, by a secondary station, responsive to determining that there is an indication of the secondary station's assigned category in a received beacon signal;

transmitting, by the secondary station, a response including the secondary station's identifier;

determining, whether and the primary station in response to determining that it has data for transfer to the secondary station having the indicated identifier, transferring the data to the said secondary station.

2. (Currently Amended) A—The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein characterised in that the beacon signals are transmitted intermittently.

3. (Currently Amended) A—The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein characterised in that the primary station acknowledges negatively if the primary station it does not have a data signal for a secondary station in an indicated category.

4. (Currently Amended) TheA method as claimed in claim 1,
wherein characterised by _ a secondary station intermittently monitoring for the presence of beacon signals.

5. (Currently Amended) TheA method as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claim 1,
wherein characterised by a secondary signalling a request for a change of category to the primary station.

6. (Currently Amended) TheA method as claimed in claim 5, wherein characterised in that a change of category request signal includes an indication of the category to be changed to.

7. (Currently Amended) TheA method as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claim 1,
wherein characterised in that each of the categories comprise a common operating characteristic.

8. (Currently Amended) A signalling system comprising at least one primary station and a plurality of secondary stations, each of the secondary stations having a distinguishing identifier, the primary station comprising means for storing into which of a plurality of categories the identifiers of the secondary stations have been assigned, wherein each station in a category has at least one common characteristic, and a transmitter for transmitting beacon signals containing indications of those categories for which the primary station it has data to be transferred, each secondary station having means for recognising an indication of its category in a received beacon signal and means for transmitting a response including the secondary station's identifier and the primary station having means for determining that the primary station it has data for transfer to the secondary station having a recognised identifier and for causing the data to be transmitted to the secondary station.

9. (Currently Amended) TheA system as claimed in claim 8, wherein characterised in that the primary station has means for causing the transmitter to transmit the beacon signals intermittently.

10. (Currently Amended) TheA system as claimed in claim 8, wherein characterised in that the primary and secondary stations operate on a single frequency channel.

11. (Currently Amended) TheA system as claimed in claim 8, wherein characterised in that the primary station has means for transmitting a negative acknowledgement if the primary station it does not have a data signal for a secondary station in an indicated category.

12. (Currently Amended) TheA system as claimed in claim 8, wherein characterised by a secondary station having means for intermittently monitoring for the presence of beacon signals.

13. (Currently Amended) TheA system as claimed in claim 8, wherein characterised by a secondary signalling having means for transmitting a request for a change of category to the primary station.

14. (Currently Amended) TheA system as claimed in claim 13, wherein characterised in that said means for transmitting a request for a change of category includes means for indicating the category to be changed to.

15. (Currently Amended) A secondary station for use in a signalling system in which a primary station transmits beacon signals containing indications of those categories of secondary stations for which the primary station it has data, wherein each station in a category has at least one common characteristic, the secondary station comprising a transceiver, means for storing an its allocated category and its own

identifier, means for storing a wakeup sequence for the transceiver, means responsive to receiving a beacon signal for checking if the beacon signal contains an indication of the allocated its category, and if the secondary station it has, for causing the transceiver to transmit to the primary station a response message including the its identifier, and means responsive to a reply from the primary station for causing the secondary station either to remain energizedenergised to receive data or to adopt a sleep mode.

16. (Currently Amended) A primary station for use in a data signalling system comprising a plurality of secondary stations, each of the secondary stations having a distinguishing identifier, the primary station comprising means for assigning the secondary stations to a plurality of categories, wherein each station in a category has at least one common characteristic, means for storing the identifiers of the secondary stations in each category, a transmitter for transmitting beacon signals containing indications of those categories for which the primary station it has data to be transferred, means for receiving responses including identifiers from secondary stations assigned to the categories indicated in the beacon signals, means for checking if there is data for transmission to the identifier of the secondary station which sent a response and, if so, for causing the data to be transmitted by the transmitter.

17. (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, further including the step of transferring the data to the said secondary station.

18. (New) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the common operating characteristic a secondary station wakeup sequence.